REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 12-14, 16-17, 20, 25-31, 34, and 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krishnan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,863), in view of Chi (6,006,329), in further view of Lerche et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,511,163). Further, the Examiner has rejected Claim 45 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krishnan, in view of Chi, in view of Lerche, and in further view of Hursey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,107,617). Additionally, the Examiner has rejected Claim 46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krishnan, in view of Chi, in view of Lerche, and in further view of Edwards et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,188,367). Applicant respectfully disagrees with such rejections, especially in view of the amendments made hereinabove to the independent claims.

Specifically, applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 14, and 27 to at least substantially include the subject matter of former dependent Claim 45..

Applicant respectfully asserts that the Hursey reference and the present application were both owned by and/or subject to an obligation of assignment to Networks Associates Technology, Inc. at the time of invention of the subject matter in the present application. Thus, the Hursey reference is believed to be disqualified as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(c).

In particular, the Hursey reference has issued after the filing date of the present application (12/20/2001). Therefore, as a result, Hursey is disqualified as prior art to the present invention under 35 U.S.C. 103(c). Please find the attached statement signed by an attorney of record indicating that Hursey and the present application were both owned by and/or subject to an obligation of assignment to Networks Associates Technology, Inc. at the time of invention of the subject matter in the present application.

In addition, applicant has amended independent Claims 28 and 29 to at least substantially include the subject matter of former dependent Claim 46.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the Edwards reference and the present application were both owned by and/or subject to an obligation of assignment to Networks Associates Technology, Inc. at the time of invention of the subject matter in the present application. Thus, the Edwards reference is believed to be disqualified as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. 103(c).

In particular, the Edwards reference has issued after the filing date of the present application (12/20/2001). Therefore, as a result, Edwards is disqualified as prior art to the present invention under 35 U.S.C. 103(c). Please find the attached statement signed by an attorney of record indicating that Edwards and the present application were both owned by and/or subject to an obligation of assignment to Networks Associates Technology, Inc. at the time of invention of the subject matter in the present application.

To this end, all of the independent claims are deemed allowable. Moreover, the remaining dependent claims are further deemed allowable, in view of their dependence on such independent claims.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. NAI1P056).

Respectfully submitted,
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